

Wimbledon Park and Lake Masterplan

The London Borough of Merton has appointed LDA Design and its specialist team to develop a masterplan for the parts of Wimbledon Park and Lake owned by Merton which will create a long-term vision for the next 25 years and provide focus for decision making and future investment.

Project update

We consulted on our new vision for Wimbledon Park and Lake from 3 July 2016 to 22 August 2016. More than 1000 people submitted written responses – thank you to all of those who shared their thoughts with us. This newsletter sets out what we've learned, what this means for the masterplan, and what we will do next.

Who took part?

We received more than 1000 written responses to the consultation, including completed questionnaires and letters. We also received 3 petitions. This includes 302 people who identified themselves as living in Merton and 312 people who identified themselves as living in Wandsworth.

As part of this process, we also sought the views of elected members and officers from Merton Council and Wandsworth Council, GLA representative and Members of Parliament, as well as stakeholders including the Friends of Wimbledon Park, the Wimbledon Park Bowls Club, Hercules Wimbledon Athletics Club, The Wimbledon Club and the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

What did we find?

We found that:

- Asked about the principles behind the master planning process, most people told us they would prefer minimal (59%) or no change (21%).
- There were aspects of each masterplan that different people liked and disliked. Overall, most people preferred Masterplan Option 1.

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What did we find? (cont.)

Masterplan Option 1

- Masterplan Option 1 was the option welcomed by the largest number of people. Many people told us that they preferred this because it represented least change (53%).
- Smaller numbers of respondents highlighted other aspects of this Masterplan Option that they liked. These included the movement of the Watersports & Outdoor Centre building (10%), improvements to the Bowls Pavilion (9%), improved ambience (7%) and improved access to the Lake (6%).
- Some respondents raised concerns about aspects of this Masterplan Option. These included concerns about the loss of the existing café building (9%), as well a view that it is not ambitious enough (7%) and that it does not do enough to open up views of the Lake (5%).



Masterplan Option 2

- Responses to this Masterplan Option were dominated by concerns about the movement of the Athletics Track (61%). A number of other issues raised, such as concerns about noise and light pollution (14%) and increased traffic (7%), were associated with this.

What did we find? (cont.)

- Smaller numbers of people liked aspects of this Option, including the potential improvement for the athletics track (9%), landscape improvements (6%), and the movement of the Watersports & Outdoor Centre building (5%).
- However, only 3% of respondents thought this was the best Masterplan Option overall.



Masterplan Option 3

- As with Masterplan Option 2, the most common response to this Masterplan Option was opposition to the movement of the athletics track (44%). Respondents also expressed concern about the impact of this Masterplan Option on sports facilities such as tennis, bowls and beach volleyball.
- Aspects that respondents said they liked about this Masterplan Option included opening up the Lake (9%).
- Only 3% of respondents thought that this was the best Masterplan Option overall.



What did we find? (cont.)

Other issues

- Few respondents commented on the three options for athletics provision. Of those that did, the most favoured was Option B – re-provision of the current level of facilities.
- 16.7% of people raised the issue of cost for use of improved facilities, particularly expressing concerns about commercialisation and any charging for use of the Park. This is clearly an important issue to note.
- Other issues raised included a desire to retain the existing café building (2.5%) and separate play areas for younger and older children (1.8%).

What does this mean for the masterplan?

Based on this, we think the masterplan option it is most appropriate to develop in more detail is **Masterplan Option 1**. This is the masterplan option which represents **least change**, and means that the **athletics track would not move from its current location**.

We recognise however that there were parts of each Masterplan Option that were liked and disliked by different respondents. We have therefore considered the feedback we received in detail and make decisions on this basis: we intend to **retain the existing café pavilion** as well as **separate play areas** for example.

What will we do next?

We will develop Masterplan Option 1 in more detail, taking into account feedback from the consultation, and produce the final masterplan. We are aiming to do this by the end of January 2017. Following final consideration by officers and members, we will then publish the Final Masterplan alongside a report with the full results of the consultation in **February 2017**. We will make details of both available on our website: www.wimbledonparkconsultation.com.